



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/293,231	04/16/1999	STEPHEN M. BRUNELL	D-10	4595
21394	7590	10/03/2005	EXAMINER	
ARTHROCARE CORPORATION 680 VAQUEROS AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-3523			MENDEZ, MANUEL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3763	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Address : COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
---------------------------------	-------------	---	---------------------

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
----------	-------

09222005

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Please refer to the document attached to this cover sheet.

Manuel Mendez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3763

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The examiner of record has been informed that the reexamination(s) and related litigation delaying the prosecution of this application have officially ended. Accordingly, since the last office action was mailed on December 4, 2001 and there has been a great amount of investigation concerning the subject matter disclosed in the pending claims, it would be prudent to present in this official document a "Request for Information" before officially re-starting prosecution of the pending claims.

Accordingly, the examiner respectfully invites applicant to submit prior art and other evidence considered relevant to the examination of this application obtained during the prosecution of related reexaminations and court cases. Additionally, in order to avoid any further delays in the prosecution of this application, amendments placing the claims in condition for allowance in view of (1) the prior art requested, and (2) the conclusions reached during related reexaminations and court cases are certainly welcome.

The applicant is reminded that the reply to this requirement must be made with candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56. Where the applicant does not have or cannot readily obtain an item of required information, a statement that the item is unknown or cannot be readily obtained may be accepted as a complete reply to the requirement for that item.


This requirement is subject to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.134, 1.135 and 1.136 and has a shortened statutory period of 2 months. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3763

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manuel Mendez whose telephone number is 703-272-4977. The examiner can normally be reached on 0730-1800 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nicholas D. Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Mendez', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Manuel Mendez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3763

MM